

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NRC-07 ACDA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02
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R 071618Z JUL 77
FM AMEMBASSY BONN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9653
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY PARIS
ERDA WASHDC
ERDA GERMANTOWN
AMEMBASSY VIENNA
AMCONSUL STUTTGART
AMCONSUL HAMBURG

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USEEC, USOECD ALSO FOR EMBASSY, USIAEA

DEPT. PASS NRC

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: ENRG, TECH, GW
SUBJECT: CHANGE IN GERMAN DOMESTIC NUCLEAR POLICY

REF: A. BONN 13987, AUGUST 1976, B. BONN 8055, PARA 4
C. BONN 10760, D. BONN 9619, E. BONN 10031

1. SUMMARY: FOR THE FIRST TIME IN EIGHT MONTHS
THE GERMAN FEDERAL MINISTRY FOR THE INTERIOR (BMI)
APPROVED THE ISSUANCE OF A FIRST PARTIAL
CONSTRUCTION LICENSE FOR A NUCLEAR POWER PLANT.
THIS DECISION BY BMI MARKS AN INTERESTING
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DEVELOPMENT IN THE GERMAN NUCLEAR CONTROVERSY.
A CONTRACT WITH A FRENCH COMPANY FOR THE
REPROCESSING AND INTERMEDIATE STORAGE OF SPENT
NUCLEAR FUEL IS ACCEPTED AS SUFFICIENT "SAFE
MANAGEMENTT OF SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL ELEMENTS", WHICH
HAD BEEN DECLARED AN UNCONDITIONAL PREREQUISITE
FOR FURTHER LICENSING (REF A). END SUMMARY.

2. THE GOVERNMENT OF THE STATE (LAND) BADEN-WUERTEMBERG SUBSEQUENTLY ISSUED THE FIRST PARTIAL CONSTRUCTION LICENSE FOR THE REACTOR PHILLIPSBURG TWO, THE SECOND OF TWO 1260 EMW BOILING WATER REACTORS TO BE CONSTRUCTED BY KRAFTWERK UNION. IT IS EXPECTED TO BEGIN OPERATION IN 1983. THE FIRST BLOCK IS WAITING FOR ITS OPERATING LICENSE EXPECTED SOMETIME THIS YEAR.

3. BMI ANNOUNCED THAT THIS DECISION COMPLIED WITH THE OPINION OF THE MAJORITY OF THE STATE GOVERNMENTS (REF B) AND WITH THE POSITION TAKEN BY THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT. PHRASE HIDDEN IN THE MINUTES OF A PARLIAMENTARY DEBATE PROVIDED THAT APPLICATIONS FOR THE FIRST PARTIAL CONSTRUCTION LICENSES MAY BE APPROVED IF THE APPLICANT CAN PROVE THAT FOREIGN FACILITIES WILL TAKE OVER SPENT FUEL ELEMENT MANAGEMENT.

4. IN THE CASE OF PHILLIPSBURG TWO, THE GERMAN COMPANY FOR THE REPROCESSING OF NUCLEAR FUEL (DEUTSCHE GESELLSCHAFT ZUR WIEDERAUFARBEITUN VON KERNBRENNSTOFFEN-DWK), WHICH IS ALSO THE APPLICANT FOR THE PLANNED INTEGRATED NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTER, AND THE FRENCH REPROCESSING COMPANY UNCLASSIFIED

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"COGEMA" HAVE CONCLUDED A CONTRACT WHICH PROVIDED FOR REPROCESSING AND STORAGE OF NUCLEAR WASTE IN FRANCE UNTIL 1995. SHOULD GERMANY NOT HAVE THE NECESSARY FACILITIES THEN, AND EXTENSION IS OPTIONAL. BMI WARNED, HOWEVER, THAT PHILLIPSBURG TWO, AS FOR ANY OTHER RECENTLY LICENSED REACTOR, WOULD NOT BE GRANTED AN OPERATING LICENSE UNLESS THE FIRST PARTIAL CONSTRUCTION LICENSE HAD FIRST BEEN ISSUED FOR THE 1500-TONNE INTEGRATED NUCLEAR FUEL CYCLE CENTER.

5. EMBASSY COMMENT:

A. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE BMI ACTION WILL MEET STRONG OPPOSITION IN THE GOVERNMENT PARTIES, ESPECIALLY SINCE MINISTER FOR THE INTERIOR MAIHOFFER'S OWN FDP PARTY HAS MOST RECENTLY CALLED FOR A LICENSING MORATORIUM, UNTIL THE REPROCESSING CENTER ITSELF HAS BEEN GRANTED THE FIRST PARTIAL CONSTRUCTION LICENSE (REF C). EPPLER, PARTY CHAIRMAN OF THE BADEN-WUERTEMBERG SPD PARTY AND ALSO A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL SPD BOARD, DOUBTED THAT THE BMI

DECISION WAS "POLITICALLY WISE", BECAUSE IT MADE
CONFRONTATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT AND THE SPD
PARTY ON THE NEXT GERNEAL PARTY CONVENTION IN
NOVEMBER ALMOST INEVITABLE.

B. IT SHOULD BE NOTED THAT UNTIL RECENTLY THE
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PUBLICLY DENIED THAT FOREIGN
MANAGEMENT OF GERMAN SPENT NUCLEAR FUEL WAS A
REAL OPTION. DR. ALBRECHT, WHO AS THE MINISTER
PRESIDENT OF LOWER SAXONY IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE
ERECTION OF GERMANY'S REPROCESSING CENTER, URGED
THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO INVESTIGATE AMERICAN
NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT FOR GERMAN REACTORS (REF C).
ANOTHER SUGGESTION FROM THE SHAH OF IRAN TO STORE
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GERMAN NUCLEAR WASTE IN IRANIAN DESERS (REF E)
WAS "NOTED WITH INTEREST", BUT NONETHELESS REJECTED
BECAUSE "GERMANY HAD TOPROVE ITS CAPABILITY TO
SOLVE THE NUCLEAR WASTE MANAGEMENT PROBLEM ON ITS
OWN".
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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Disposition Event:
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